

03-16-00

A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

ATTY. DKT. NO.  
6019.3027

PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

INVENTOR(S): Steve Sheppard; and Bill Weeks

TITLE: MEDIA INTERFACE DEVICE

Enclosed are the following papers required for a filing date under 35 CFR §1.53(b):

- ☒ Specification 26 pages  
☒ Claims 21 pages  
☒ Abstract 1 pages  
☒ Drawings 10 sheets ☒ formal ☐ informal

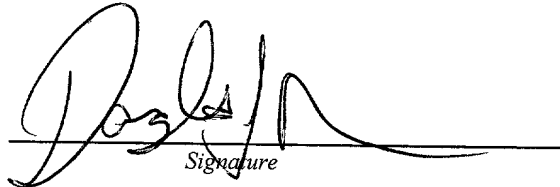
The following additional papers are enclosed:

- ☒ Fee Transmittal  
☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney  
☐ Verified Statement(s) of Small Entity Status ☐ Independent Inventor ☐ Small Business  
☐ Non-Profit ☐ Other  
☐ Information Disclosure Statement ☐ Form PTO-1449  
☒ Assignment and Cover Sheet  
☐ Other:

Dated:

3/15/00

J.P. Blasko Prof. Corp.  
107 North Broad Street  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
(215) 348-7775

  
Signature

Douglas J. Ryder, Reg. No. 43,073

jc515 U.S. PTO  
09/525412  
03/15/00

**TITLE**

*Media Interface Device*

**Field of the Invention**

5       The present invention relates to an apparatus and method for the distribution of video, data, telephone and other telecommunications services from a single point to multiple devices within a residence.

10       **Background of the Invention**

Advances in the field of telecommunications allow large amounts of digital information to be delivered to a residence. Digital telecommunications networks (access systems), such as Hybrid-Fiber-Coax (HFC), Fiber-to-the-Curb (FTTC), and Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), can provide both traditional  
15       telecommunications services such as Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) as well as advanced services such as Switched Digital Video (SDV) and high-speed data access. Devices inside the residence, will be connected to the network by twisted wire pairs which provide telephone services today, or by coaxial cable  
20       similar to that used by cable operators to provide cable television (TV) services. Because of this range of services, it is likely that digital networks will be widely deployed. In a widespread deployment of digital networks, millions of homes will  
25       connect to the digital networks.

Because the majority of new video services will be digital, and because existing TVs are analog, there is a need for a device, hereinafter referred to as a Residential Gateway (RG), to convert the digital signals supplied by the network to analog  
30       signals compatible with existing TVs. Furthermore, there is a need for the RG to act as an interface subsystem for each device connected to the digital network. For example, the RG needs to act as a Premises Interface Device (PID) to extract time division

1 multiplexed information and generate a telephone signal, and an  
Ethernet Bridge or Router (EBR) to generate a signal compatible  
with a computer.

2 Numerous connectors may be required as multiple devices are  
5 connected to the RG and will transmit signals to and from the RG.  
Thus, there is a need for an apparatus that combines multiple  
devices and connections into a single device so as to simplify  
the installation of the RG.

### 10                   **Summary Of The Invention**

11           The present invention discloses a method and an apparatus  
for receiving signals from a telecommunications network, decoding  
the signals, and transmitting the decoded signals to a plurality  
of devices. In a preferred embodiment, the telecommunications  
15 network is a digital network and the signals include video  
signals, and may possibly include telephone signals, computer  
signals, and signals for other devices. In a preferred  
embodiment, the plurality of devices includes multiple  
televisions and may possibly include telephones, computers and  
20 other devices. The apparatus is commonly known as a Residential  
Gateway (RG).

21           In one embodiment, a method of receiving, decoding and  
distributing video signals from a telecommunications network to a  
plurality of televisions locatable in at least two separate  
25 locations within a residential environment via a RG is disclosed.  
The method includes receiving at least one channel select command  
from one of a plurality of remote control devices associated with  
a respective one of the plurality of televisions. At least a  
first one of the plurality of remote control devices transmits  
30 the channel select command directly to a receiver within the RG.  
A video signal is received from the telecommunications network  
and transported over a video bus to a video processor. The video  
signal is processed to produce at least one television signal

corresponding to the at least one channel select command. The at least one television signal is then transmitted to the at least one television.

According to one embodiment, a RG for distributing video signals to a plurality of televisions locatable within at least two separate locations in a residential environment is disclosed. The RG includes a receiver for directly receiving channel select commands from remote control devices associated with the televisions. A network interface module receives signals, including video signals, from a telecommunications network, wherein the received video signals correspond to the channel select commands. A video processor processes the video signals to produce at least one television signal. A video bus transports the video signals to the plurality of video processors.

According to one embodiment, a method for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network at a RG, and transmitting decoded signals from the RG to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions is disclosed. The method includes connecting each of the plurality of devices and the telecommunications network to the RG so that all communications between the devices and the telecommunications network must pass through the RG. A television channel is selected to view for at least one of the multiple televisions by programming an associated remote control device to transmit a channel select command. The channel select commands are received by a receiver within the RG. The at least one channel select command is transmitted to the telecommunications network. A video signal is received from the telecommunications network. The video signal is processed into at least one television signal corresponding to the at least one channel select command. The at least one television signal is then transmitted to the appropriate television.

According to one embodiment, a method for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network at a RG, and transmitting the decoded signals from the RG to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions is disclosed. The method  
5 includes connecting the RG to the telecommunications network and to at least one television that is remotely located from the RG. A television channel is selected to view for the at least one television by programming associated wireless remote control devices. The wireless remote control devices transmit channel  
10 select commands as wireless signals to remote antennae packages connected to the at least one television. The remote antennae packages receive the wireless signals and transmit the wireless signals over media to a media interface device which demodulates the wireless signals and extracts the portion corresponding to  
15 the channel select commands. The channel select commands are transmitted to the telecommunications network. A video signal is received from the telecommunications network and processed to produce television signals corresponding to the channel select commands. The television signals are then transmitted to the at  
20 least one television.

According to one embodiment, a RG for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network and transmitting the decoded signals to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions is disclosed. The RG includes a network interface  
25 module for transmitting upstream signals, including channel select commands, to the telecommunications network and receiving downstream signals, including video signals, from the telecommunications network. A video processor processes the video signals into at least one television signal corresponding  
30 to at least one channel select command and transmits the at least one television signal to the corresponding television. A remote control module processes the channel select commands. At least one of the channel select commands is extracted from a wireless

signal transmitted from a wireless remote control device. The wireless signal received by a remote antennae package connected to the associated television and transmitted over media to a media interface device which demodulates the wireless signal and  
5 extracts the portion corresponding to the channel select command.

According to one embodiment, a RG for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network and transmitting the decoded signals to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions is disclosed. The RG includes a network interface  
10 module for transmitting upstream signals, including channel select commands, to the telecommunications network and receiving downstream signals, including video signals, from the telecommunications network. A video processor decodes the video signals into at least one television signal corresponding to at  
5 least one channel select command and transmits the at least one television signal to the corresponding television. A remote antennae package, located in close proximity to and connected to a remotely located television receives a wireless signal, including a channel select command, from a wireless remote  
20 control device associated with the remotely located television and modulates the wireless signal over media. A media interface device (MID), connected to the media and the RG, demodulates the wireless signal, extracting the portion corresponding to the channel select command, and transmitting the channel select  
25 command to the RG.

According to one embodiment, a MID for directional distribution of signals to multiple devices over media is disclosed. The MID includes a first connector for receiving a first signal in a first direction, a second connector for  
30 receiving a second signal in the first direction and transmitting a third signal in a second direction, a third connector for transmitting the first signal and the second signal over the media in the first direction and receiving the third signal and a

fourth signal over the media in the second direction, a diplexer for extracting the third signal from the media in the second direction and inserting the second signal onto the media in the first direction, a remote antennae module for receiving the  
5 fourth signal and extracting a fifth signal therefrom, and a fourth connector for transmitting the fifth signal in the second direction.

According to one embodiment, a MID for connecting to a RG and distributing signals to and from the RG over media is  
10 disclosed. The MID includes a first connector for receiving multiple signals (i.e., wireless signals from wireless remote control devices associated with remotely located TVs and downstream network signals) over the media, and for transmitting multiple signals (i.e., TV signals and upstream network signals)  
5 over the media. A second connector receives the TV signals from the RG on the media and a third connector receives the upstream network signals from the RG and transmits the downstream network signals to the RG. A diplexer, connected to the first connector, extracts the downstream network signals from the media and  
20 inserts upstream network signals onto the media. A balun, connected to the diplexer, adjusts the impedance of the upstream network signals so they can be inserted onto the media by the diplexer, and adjusts the impedance of the downstream network signals so they can be processed by the RG. A remote antennae  
25 module, connected to the diplexer, extracts the channel select commands from the wireless signals and transmits the channel select commands to the RG.

These and other features and objects of the invention will be more fully understood from the following detailed description  
30 of the preferred embodiments which should be read in light of the accompanying drawings.

## **Brief Description Of The Drawings**

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and form a part of the specification, illustrate the embodiments of the present invention and, together with the description serve to  
5 explain the principles of the invention.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 illustrates a Hybrid-Fiber-Coax (HFC) access system;

Fig. 2 illustrates a Fiber-To-The-Curb (FTTC) access system;

Fig. 3 illustrates an FTTC access system including a  
10 Residential Gateway (RG), according to one embodiment;

Fig. 4 illustrates a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) access system including an RG, according to one embodiment;

Fig. 5 illustrates an RG architecture, according to one embodiment;

Fig. 6 illustrates the operation of the RG within the residence, according to one embodiment;

Fig. 7 illustrates an RG architecture, according to one embodiment;

Fig. 8 illustrates the connections between the RG and  
20 various other components, according to one embodiment;

Fig. 9 illustrates the components of a Media Interface Device (MID), according to one embodiment; and

Fig. 10 illustrates the housing of the MID, according to one embodiment.

## **Detailed Description**

### **Of The Preferred Embodiments**

In describing a preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated in the drawings, specific terminology will be used  
30 for the sake of clarity. However, the invention is not intended to be limited to the specific terms so selected, and it is to be understood that each specific term includes all technical



equivalents which operate in a similar manner to accomplish a similar purpose.

With reference to the drawings, in general, and Figs. 1 through 10 in particular, the method and apparatus of the present invention are disclosed.

Fig. 1 illustrates a Hybrid-Fiber-Coax (HFC) digital network in which various devices within a residence 190 are connected to a Video Network (VN) 408 and/or a Data and Voice Network (DVN) 404. The devices in the residence 190 can include a Premises Interface Device (PID) 196 connected to a telephone 194, a television (TV) set-top converter 198 connected to a TV 199, a Ethernet Bridge or Router (EBR) 191 connected to a computer 193, or other devices. A cable Head End (HE) 400 is connected upstream to the DVN 404 and the VN 408. The physical interface to the DVN 404 may be copper wire pairs carrying either Digital Signal (DS)-1 or DS-3 signals. The physical interface to the VN 408 may be via a wide area network (WAN).

The cable HE 400 is connected downstream to a plurality of optical to electrical (O/E) nodes 410 (only one illustrated) with fiber optic cables 160. The O/E nodes 410 are located within the communities serviced by the HFC network. Each O/E node 410 provides service for up to 500 residences within the given community. Since such a large number of users are being serviced by one O/E node 410, amplifiers 420 are required. The O/E node 410 connects to the residence 190 via coaxial cable 170. The coaxial cable 170 is received by a splitter 177 within the residence 190 so that internal coaxial wiring 171 can route the data being transmitted to the various devices. Each device connected to the internal coaxial wiring 171 will require an interface sub-system which can convert the current format of the signal being transmitted over the internal coaxial wiring 171 to the service interface required by the devices (i.e., telephone, TV, computer, or other devices). In a preferred embodiment, the



it, or can be run on a workstation to support multiple HDTs 130 and the associated digital network equipment.

Optical Network Units (ONUs) 140 are located in the serving area and are connected to the HDT 130 via optical fiber 160.

5 Digital signals, having a format which is similar to the Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) format, are transmitted to and from each ONU 140 over the optical fiber 160 at a rate of at least 155 Mb/s, and preferably 622 Mb/s. In a preferred embodiment, the optical fiber 160 is a single-mode fiber and a  
10 dual wavelength transmission scheme is used to communicate between the ONU 140 and the HDT 130. In an alternate embodiment, a single wavelength scheme is used in which low reflectivity components are used to permit transmission and reception on one fiber.

15 A Telephony Interface Unit (TIU) 145 in the ONU 140 generates analog Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) signals which are transported to the residence 190 via a twisted wire pair, drop line cable 180. At the residence 190 a Network Interface Device (NID) 183 provides for high-voltage protection and serves  
20 as the interface and demarcation point between the twisted wire pair, drop line cable 180 and the twisted wire pairs 181 internal to the residence 190. In a preferred embodiment, the TIU 145 generates POTS signals for six residences 190, each having a separate twisted wire pair, drop line cable 180 connected to the  
25 ONU 140.

A Broadband Interface Unit (BIU) 152 is located in the ONU 140 and generates broadband signals which contain video, data and voice information. The BIU 152 modulates data onto a RF carrier and transmits the data to the residence 190 over media 170, such  
30 as a coaxial, drop line cable or a twisted wire pair, drop line cable. Fig. 2 illustrates the media 170 as the coaxial drop line cable. The media 170 connects to the residence 190 at a splitter 177. The data then travels from the splitter 177 to the devices

within the residence 190 over coaxial wiring 171 internal to the residence 190. Each device connected to the internal coaxial wiring 171 will require an interface sub-system which can convert the current format of the signal being transmitted over the internal coaxial wiring 171 to the service interface required by the devices (i.e., telephone 194, TV 199, computer 193, or other devices).

In a preferred embodiment, 64 ONUs 140 are served by each HDT 130 and each ONU 140 serves 8 residences 190. In an alternate embodiment, each ONU 140 serves 16 residences 190.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the NID 183 is located external to the residence 190, at what is known in the industry as the network demarcation point. For the delivery of telephone services the NID 183 is a passive device whose principal functions are lightning protection and the ability to troubleshoot the network by allowing connection of a telephone 194 to the twisted wire pair, drop line cable 180 to determine if wiring problems exist on the internal twisted wire pairs 181.

Fig. 3 illustrates a residential gateway (RG) 200 located within the residence 190. In the embodiment illustrated, the digital network is an FTTC network and the media 170 is a coaxial, drop line cable for connecting to and communicating with the RG 200. The RG 200 generates signals compatible with the devices (i.e., telephone 194, TV 199, and the computer 193) in the residence 190, thus reducing the number of interface sub-systems required. For example, the computer 193 does not need the EBR 191, the telephone 194 does not need the PID 196, and the TVs 199 do not require the set-top converters 198. Moreover, in a preferred embodiment, the RG 200 can produce TV signals as S-video signals and transmit the S-video signals to a TV 199 located in close proximity to the RG 200 using S-video cables 205.

Additional devices 192, such as additional TVs 199, which are remotely located from the RG 200 (hereinafter referred to as remotely located TVs 199) may be connected to the RG 200. In one embodiment, each of the remotely located TVs 199 may be connected to the RG 200 via media 210, such as internal coaxial cable, and the splitter 177 (this type of connection is known as a point-to-multipoint connection). In another embodiment, each remotely located TV 199 may be directly connected to the RG 200 with the media 210 (this type of connection is known as a point-to-point connection).

Fig. 4 illustrates an embodiment, in which the digital network is a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) network. In this embodiment, the ONU 140 is replaced with a Universal Service Access Multiplexer (USAM) 340. The USAM 340 is located in the serving area, and is connected to the HDT 130 via optical fiber 160. A twisted wire pair, drop line cable 180 provides communications to and from the RG 200.

The USAM 340 includes a xDSL modem 350 which provides for the transmission of high-speed digital data to and from the residence 190, over the twisted wire pair, drop line cable 180. When used herein, the term xDSL refers to any one of the twisted wire pair digital subscriber loop transmission techniques including High speed Digital Subscriber Loop (HDSL), Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Loop (ADSL), Very high speed Digital Subscriber Loop (VDSL), Rate Adaptive Digital Subscriber Loop (RADSL), or other similar twisted wire pair transmission techniques. Such transmission techniques are known to those skilled in the art. The xDSL modem 350 contains the circuitry and software to generate a signal which can be transmitted over the twisted wire pair, drop line cable 180, and which can receive high speed digital signals transmitted from the RG 200 or other devices connected to the subscriber network.

Traditional analog telephone signals are combined with the digital signals for transmission to the residence 190. A NID/filter 360 replaces the NID 183 of Figs. 2 and 3, and is used to separate the analog telephone signals from the digital signals. The majority of xDSL transmission techniques leave the analog voice portion of the spectrum (from approximately 400 Hz to 4,000 Hz) undisturbed. The analog telephone signal, once separated from any digital data signals in the spectrum, is sent to the telephone 194 over the internal twisted wire pairs 181. The digital signals that are separated at the NID/filter 360 are sent from a separate port on the NID/filter 360 to the RG 200. The RG 200 serves as the interface to the other devices (TVs 199, computers 193, and additional telephones 194) in the residence 190.

The embodiment illustrated in Fig. 4 is a central office configuration, which includes a USAM Central Office Terminal (COT) 324 connected to the HDT 130. A USAM COT-HDT connection 325, is a twisted wire pair which transmits a STS3c signal in a preferred embodiment. A PSTN-USAM COT interface 303 is one of the Bellcore specified interfaces including TR-TSY-000008, TR-NWT-000057 or TR-NWT-000303, which are all incorporated herein by reference. The USAM COT 324 has the same mechanical configuration as the USAM 340 in terms of power supplies and common control cards, but has line cards which support twisted wire pair interfaces to the PSTN 100 (including DS-1 interfaces) and cards which support STS3c transmission over the twisted wire pair of the USAM COT-HDT connection 325.

A Channel Bank (CB) 322 is used to connect special networks 310, comprised of signals from special private or public networks, to the DSL network via a special networks-CB interface 313. In a preferred embodiment, a CB-USAM COT connection 320 includes DS1 signals over twisted wire pairs.

005160  
The RG 200 of FIGS. 3 and 4 can be located anywhere within  
the residence 190 (i.e., in any of the living spaces, in the  
basement, in the garage, in a wiring closet, in the attic), or  
external to the residence (i.e., on an external wall). For  
5 external locations, the RG 200 will require a hardened enclosure  
and components which work over a larger temperature range than  
those used for the RG 200 located internal to the residence 190.  
Techniques for developing hardened enclosures and selecting  
temperature tolerant components are known to those skilled in the  
10 art.

Fig. 5 illustrates one embodiment of the RG 200. The RG 200  
includes a network connection 460 for connecting to the digital  
network. The network connection 460 will vary depending on the  
digital network that the RG is connecting to. That is, the  
5 network connection 460 will depend on whether the digital network  
for the area the residence 190 is located within is an FTTC  
network, a DSL network, or other type of digital network. For  
example, if the drop line from the digital network to the RG 200  
is a coaxial cable (i.e., the FTTC network of Fig. 3) the network  
20 connection 460 should be a coaxial cable connector. If the drop  
line from the digital network to the RG 200 is twisted wire pair  
cable (i.e., the DSL network of Fig. 4) the network connection  
460 should be a connector capable of receiving twisted wire  
pairs, such as a telephone jack. As one skilled in the art would  
25 know, the network connection 460 could be various different types  
of connectors as long as the connector is capable of receiving  
the signals being transmitted over the drop line from the digital  
network.

The network connection 460 is connected to a Network  
30 Interface Module (NIM) 410. The NIM 410 receives all data from  
and transmits all data to the digital network and thus contains  
the appropriate modem technology. As with the network connection  
460, the type of NIM 410 utilized depends on the type of digital

network that the RG 200 is connected to (i.e., the FTTC network of Figs. 3, the DSL network of Fig. 4, or other types of digital networks). Regardless of the type of NIM 410 utilized, the NIM 410 interfaces to a mother board 414 which provides the basic  
5 functionality of the RG 200.

The mother board 414 may contain a microprocessor 434, memory 436, a power supply 440, a main MPEG processor 430, an Ethernet processor 438, and a Remote Control (RC) processor 442. As one skilled in the art would recognize, the mother board 414  
10 could contain additional components, or some of the components illustrated as being part of the mother board 414 could be removed from or located elsewhere within the RG 200, without departing from the scope of the current invention.

The RG 200 receives power from a power source, which in a preferred embodiment is an AC outlet, via a plug 476, which in a preferred embodiment is an AC plug. The power supply 440  
converts the voltage from the AC outlet, for example 120 volts AC in a typical residence 190, to the voltages necessary for each of the components of the RG 200 to operate. The power supply 440 is  
20 illustrated as being an element of the mother board 414, but as one skilled in the art would know, the power supply 440 could be a separate component within the RG 200.

The microprocessor 434 controls the operation of the RG 200. For example, the microprocessor 434 may control the transfer of  
25 data between each of the elements of the RG 200. The memory 436 may store operating programs required by the microprocessor 434, data received from the digital network or any of the devices in the residence 190 connected to the RG 200, or other data or programs required by the RG 200.

The Ethernet processor 438 converts ATM cells received by the NIM 410 into the appropriate form for transmission to the devices, such as the computers 193. The computers 193 are  
30 connected to the RG 200 via an Ethernet connector 478 located in



the housing of the RG 200. As illustrated in Fig. 5, the RG 200 has only one Ethernet connector 478. However, this is in no way intended to limit the current invention to an RG 200 that can only connect to one computer 193. That is, as one skilled in the art would know, multiple computers 193 could be connected to the RG 200 by using a splitter, adding Ethernet connectors 478 to the RG 200, or by other methods.

Within the main MPEG processor 430 there is a Video Segmentation and Re-assembly (VSAR) module 432 which constructs Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG) packets from an ATM stream received from the NIM 410. In addition to constructing the MPEG packets, the VSAR module 432 can reduce jitter in the MPEG packets which arises from transmission of those packets over the ATM network 110, as well as constructing a useable MPEG stream in spite of lost ATM cells which contain partial MPEG packets. It would be obvious to one skilled in the art that the VSAR module 432 does not have to be part of the main MPEG processor 430. For example, the VSAR module 432 could be its own module on the mother board 414, could be its own subassembly, or could be part of another processor, such as the NIM 410.

While the VSAR module 432 has been described as constructing MPEG packets from received ATM streams, this is in no way intended to limit the scope of the invention. Rather, this is simply one of the preferred embodiments. That is, one preferred method for transmitting digital data over the digital network is in ATM streams, and one preferred method for encoding digital video data is an MPEG standard (currently the MPEG-2 standard). It is within the scope of the current invention to receive digital data from a digital network in any format and for the video data to be encoded in any format. That is, one skilled in the art could modify the VSAR module 432 to handle new transmission or encoding formats without departing from the scope of the current invention.

1 The main MPEG processor 430 can also decompress the MPEG  
packets, which are constructed by the VSAR module 432, to  
generate video signals compatible with present TVs 199. In one  
embodiment, the main MPEG processor 430 generates a video signal  
5 that has an S-video format. The S-video signal can be  
transmitted over an S-video connector 474 to a TV 199 having an  
S-video port via an S-video cable 205. As one skilled in the art  
knows, the S-video signals are a higher quality video signal  
because the chrominance and luminance information are separated.  
10 The TV 199 receiving the S-video signals should be located in  
close proximity to the RG 200 to ensure the quality of the S-  
video signal.

15 In one embodiment, the main MPEG processor 430 may  
decompress multiple MPEG packets corresponding to multiple TV  
channel selections. For example, the main MPEG processor 430 may  
decompress three video streams simultaneously to generate three  
video signals associated with three TV channel selections. The  
video signals are compatible with the current TV format, which in  
the U.S. is currently the National TV System Committee (NTSC)  
format. The invention however is not limited to the NTSC format.  
20 It is well within the scope of the current invention for the TV  
signals to be generated in accordance with the current standard  
for the time, whether it be the NTSC format or a new format. The  
TV signals may be combined and modulated over a single media or  
25 each TV signal may be modulated over its own media.

The RC processor 442 is capable of processing RC signals  
received by the RG 200. For example, in the embodiment  
illustrated in Fig. 5, the RC processor 442 receives optical  
signals from an optical receiver 472, such as an infrared (IR)  
30 receiver, and wireless signals from a wireless receiver 470, such  
as a UHF receiver, within the RG 200. One skilled in the art  
would recognize that the RC processor 442 could be designed to  
handle any type of channel select signals received by the RG 200.

Moreover, one skilled in the art would recognize that the RC processor 442 is not limited to the illustrated configuration of being a module located on the mother board 414. For example, the RC processor 442 could be located on another board or could be incorporated as part of another module.

The embodiment of the RG 200 illustrated in Fig. 5, further includes the optical receiver 472. The optical receiver 472 receives channel select commands from an optical RC associated with the TV 199 that is in close proximity to the RG 200, and in a preferred embodiment is directly connected to the RG 200 via the S-video port 474. In a preferred embodiment, the RG 200 is treated like a VCR and is either located in a stereo cabinet with the TV 199 or on top of the TV 199. As with a VCR, the TV 199 would be set to a particular channel, for example channel 3 or 4 just like a VCR, and the control of the channel selection for the TV 199 would then be controlled by the optical RC sending channel select commands to the RG 200 directly.

The embodiment of the RG 200 illustrated in Fig. 5, further includes the wireless receiver 470 for receiving channel select signals from the remotely located TVs 199 (i.e., located in separate rooms or even separate floors of the residence 190). The remotely located TVs 199 would be set to a particular channel, for example channel 3 or 4 just like a VCR, and the channel selection for the remotely located TVs 199 would then be controlled by a wireless RC associated with each remotely located TV 199. The wireless RC transmits the channel select commands directly to the wireless receiver 470 within the RG 200.

The RG 200 also includes a set of buses 429 used to route information within the RG 200. As illustrated in Fig. 6 the set of buses 429 includes a Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) bus 420, a control bus 422, a MPEG bus 424, and an ATM bus 428.

The RG 200 may also include a number of optional modules which can be inserted into the RG 200. The optional modules

include MPEG modules 450, a Digital Audio Visual Council (DAVIC) module 452, and a telephone module 454. All of the optional modules are connected to the control bus 422 in addition to being connected to at least one other bus which provides those modules with the appropriate types of data for the services supported by the module.

The MPEG modules 450 provide for decompression of MPEG packets which are constructed by the VSAR processor 432. The MPEG modules are associated with remotely located TVs 199. As with the output of the main MPEG processor 430, the output of the MPEG modules 450 is a signal having a format compatible with present TVs 199. The MPEG modules 450 can modulate the decompressed analog format video signal onto an available channel for transmission to the remotely located TVs 199 in the residence 190. In a preferred embodiment, the MPEG modules 450 are insertable cards. Thus, the cards could be added after an initial installation to handle additional TVs 199. For example, in one embodiment the main MPEG processor 430 may be capable of generating three TV signals so that the RG 200 can accommodate three TVs 199 without the need for any MPEG modules 450. If a fourth TV 199 was added, or one of the TVs 199 had picture-in-picture, a MPEG module 450 would be required to generate a fourth TV signal.

The DAVIC module 452 is for communicating with devices that have a signal format that is compatible with a signal format received from the digital network. That is, the DAVIC module transmits ATM signals to and receives ATM signal from these devices. Thus, the DAVIC module 452 allows the RG 200 to act as a pass through for these devices. These devices may include the interface sub-systems illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2. This is beneficial because the RG 200 can be used in conjunction with previously purchased interface sub-systems if required or desired.

As illustrated in Fig. 5, the MPEG modules 450 and the DAVIC module 452 are connected to a combiner 418 which combines the RF signals from those modules. It should be noted that this embodiment has only one RF connector 466 so that the combiner 418 is necessary to combine all the TV signals and ATM signals so they can be transmitted over a single media 210, such as one coaxial cable, connected to the RF connector 466. If multiple RF connectors 466 were provided, it is possible that the combiner 418 would not be required. Moreover, the combiner 418 could be located external to the RG 200. However, the combiner 418 can also add other RF signals, such as off-air broadcast television signals or Community Antenna Television (CATV) signals supplied by a cable television company. Signals from the antenna or cable system are coupled to the RF pass-through 464, which in a preferred embodiment is an F-connector. A low pass filter 482 is used in the combiner 418 to insure that the frequencies used by MPEG modules 450 are available. The output of the combiner 418 is connected to the RF connector 466, which in a preferred embodiment is an F-connector.

An optional CATV module 480 can be inserted into the RG 200 to allow for mapping of off-air or cable video channels from their original frequencies to new frequencies for in-home distribution. The RC processor 442 can control the channel selection and mapping via the control bus 422 which is connected to the CATV module 480. Either a hand-held optical RC or a wireless RC can be used to change the channel mapping of the CATV module 480.

The RG 200 includes a front panel interface 462, which provides for connectivity between the front panel controls (buttons) and the microprocessor 434. Through the front panel controls, the user can make channel changes as well as changing the configuration of the channels transmitted on the in-home coaxial network.

1 The RG 200 also includes a telephone module 454, which  
transmits and receives information from the TDM bus 420 and  
produces an analog telephone signal which is compatible with  
telephones 194. The interface for the telephones 194 is a  
5 telephone jack 468, which in a preferred embodiment is an RJ-11  
jack.

Fig. 6 illustrates an embodiment in which the wireless  
signals from the wireless RCs are transmitted over media 210,  
such as coaxial cable, connecting the TV 199 and the RG 200. The  
10 wireless RCs transmit the channel select commands to a Remote  
Antennae Package (RAP) 900 which is connected to each remotely  
located TV 199. The RAP 900 is a passive device for receiving  
and transmitting the wireless signal. The RAP 900 includes an  
antenna 910, such as a  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave dipole antenna, located in close  
proximity to the TV 199, and preferably mounted to the TV 199. A  
wireless RC 500, such as a UHF RC, is used to select a channel.  
The wireless RC 500 transmits a wireless signal at one of the  
standard wireless transmission frequencies, such as 433 MHz. The  
wireless signal is a modulated signal that includes the channel  
select commands. The FCC regulations for wireless RCs imposes a  
20 maximum transmit power of 80.5 dbu V/m at a distance of 3 meters.  
One such wireless RC 500 that can be used along with the current  
invention is the RCK-431N manufactured by DAE-Ryung. The antenna  
910 receives the channel select command and the RAP 900 transmits  
25 the wireless signal over the media 210 (i.e., coaxial cable) or  
the media 210 and the splitter 177.

A Remote Antenna Module (RAM) 920 which is located near, and  
preferably connected to the RG 200, receives the wireless signal.  
The RAM 920 demodulates the wireless signal and extracts the  
30 channel select command therefrom. In a preferred embodiment, the  
channel select command is extracted as an approximately 1 KHz  
audio signal. The RAM 920 then transmits the channel select  
command to the RG 200 for processing. The RAM 920 may be

connected to the RG 200 with, for example audio wire better known as "speaker wire". In an alternative embodiment, the RAM 920 may be an integral part of the RG 200. In another embodiment, the RAM 920 may be mounted on the RG 200.

5 Fig. 7 illustrates an embodiment of the RG 200 that includes a port 750 for receiving channel select commands from the RAM 920. The channel select commands are provided directly to the RC processor 442. In this embodiment, a wireless antennae is not required to receive the wireless signals. Moreover, this  
10 embodiment includes multiple ports 630, such as TV connectors. Thus, the combiner 418 of Fig. 5 is not required. Rather, this embodiment illustrates TV modules 654 for modulating the appropriate video channel over the appropriate port 630.

In addition, to transmitting TV signals from the RG 200 and wireless signals from the RAPs 900, the media 210 can be used to transport other signals. For example, the media 210 can be used to transport network signals between the telecommunications network and the RG 200. In order to transport network signals, diplexers are needed to insert and extract the signals from the media, and baluns are needed to adjust the impedance of the  
20 signals.

Fig. 8 illustrates one embodiment of an RG system utilizing the RAP 900 and the RAM 920 for communications between the RG 200 and the remotely located TVs 199 in addition to the use of  
25 diplexers and baluns to transmit network signals over the media 210. In this embodiment, three TV signals are modulated over three separate channels via three separate ports in the RG 200. The three TV signals are combined into one combined TV signal by using a combiner 802. The combined TV signal is then split into  
30 two signals by splitter 804 so that the combined TV signal can be transmitted to a TV 199 in close proximity to the RG 200 and to the remotely located TVs 199. In this embodiment, the combined TV signal is transmitted to a VCR connected to the TV 199 in

close proximity to the RG 200. As illustrated, the TV 199 located in close proximity to the RG 200 is not receiving S-video signals, but instead is receiving the same format of signals as the remotely located TVs 199. As discussed earlier, the format of these TV signals may be the NTSC format currently used in the U.S. As would be obvious to those skilled in the art, if the TV 199 located in close proximity to the RG 200 was receiving the TV signals as an S-video signal out of the S-video port, the splitter 804 would not be required.

The combined TV signal being transmitted to the remotely located TVs 199 may be passed through the RAM 920. The RAM 920 will not perform any processing on the combined TV signals. The combined TV signal may then connect to a diplexer 806 located in close proximity to the RG 200. Thus, the other signals, such as VDSL signals from the telecommunications network, may be transmitted over the same media 210 that connects the RG 200 to the remotely located TVs 199. The media 210 is illustrated as coaxial cable 210 in Fig. 8. In order for the other signals to be transmitted over the same media 210, the other signals need to be passed through a balun 808 located in close proximity to the RG 200. The balun 808 adjusts the impedance of the other signals so that it can be transmitted over the same media 210. For example, as illustrated the digital signals being transmitted between the telecommunications network and the RG 200 are transmitted over twisted wire pair cables. Thus in this embodiment, the balun 808 provides the necessary impedance matching to allow the 100 ohm VDSL signal received from the digital network to be carried over the existing 75 ohm in home coaxial cable 210.

The combined TV signal and the other signals are then transmitted over the common media 210, such as in-home coaxial cable, to a remote location within the residence 190. A diplexer 810 is located at the remote location to remove the other signals



from the media. A balun 812 is used to adjust the impedance of the other signals so that they can be transmitted over the twisted wire pair cables to the telecommunications network. The combined TV signal is then split by the splitter 177 so that it can be provided to multiple remotely located TVs 199. As illustrated the combined TV signal is provided to the RAP 900. However, the RAP 900 does not perform any processing on the combined TV signal. Each of the remotely located TVs 199 then displays the TV signal for the channel that was selected for viewing.

When the viewer of one of the remotely located TVs 199 decides to change channels, the viewer programs a wireless RC which transmits wireless signals, such as UHF signals, to the RAP 900. The RAP 900 receives the wireless signal, which includes the channel select command, and transmits the wireless signal downstream over the media 210 (i.e., coaxial cable). The wireless signals received from the multiple remotely located TVs 199 are combined at the splitter 177 onto the media 210. Downstream signals from the telecommunications network may be transmitted over the same media 210 using the balun 812 to adjust the impedance of the signals and the diplexer 810 to transmit the signals over the media 210. When the downstream signals are in the vicinity of the RG 200, the diplexer 806 removes the other signals from the media 210 and provides them to the balun 808 so that the impedance can be adjusted and the other signals can be provided to a network input of the RG 200. The wireless signals are provided from the diplexer 806 to the RAM 920 where the channel select command is extracted and modulated to the RG 200. As illustrated the channel select commands are modulated to the RG 200 over speaker wire 922. The channel select commands are not provided to the splitter 804.

As should be apparent, numerous connections are required to install the configuration of Fig. 8. That is, the combiner 802

needs to be connected to the RG 200, the splitter 804 needs to be connected to the combiner 802, the RAM 920 needs to be connected to the splitter 804, the diplexer 806 needs to be connected to the RAM 920, the RAM 920 needs to be connected to the RG 200, the balun 808 needs to be connected to the RG 200, and the diplexer 806 needs to be connected to the balun 808. The dotted line on Fig. 8 illustrates the components that can be replaced by a single device, in an alternative embodiment. The alternative embodiment utilizes a Media Interface Device (MID) 800, such as a coaxial interface device, that includes the combiner 802, the splitter 804, the diplexer 806, the balun 808, and the RAM 920 and can be mounted directly on the RG 200. Utilizing the MID 800 reduces the number of independent devices and the number of cables required for installation of the configuration illustrated in Fig. 8.

Fig. 9 illustrates a schematic of the MID 800. The MID 800 includes multiple connectors, a 2x3 RF splitter 803, a RAM 920, a diplexer 806, a balun 808, and associated connections between the devices as illustrated. The MID 800 performs all the functions previously described above for each of the individual components. The multiple connectors include five connectors for connecting to the RG 200: three video connectors 850, such as coaxial connectors; a connector 852 for the channel select command, such as an audio pendant; and a connector 864 for connecting the telecommunications network to the RG 200, such as a RG-45 pendant. The multiple connectors also include two connectors for connecting to other devices: a connector 860, such as coaxial connector, for the local TV 199; and a connector 862, such as a coaxial connector, for the remote devices.

The channel numbers illustrated in Fig. 9 are examples of the channels that are assigned to each TV. The TV signals associated with each TV being modulated onto the coaxial cable at the frequency of the assigned channel. As illustrated the

assigned channels are 3, 8 and 11. These channels are simply for illustrative purposes and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

Fig. 10 illustrates one embodiment of the housing of the MID 800. As illustrated the MID 800 includes three video connectors 850 which would be adequately spaced so that the MID 800 could be directly attached to the connectors on the RG 200. The MID 800 also includes the two connectors 860, 862 for the local TV 199 and the remotely located devices, as well as a pendant 864 for connecting the MID 800 to the network input of the RG 200 and a pendant 852 for connecting to the channel select command port, audio port, of the RG 200. The MID 800 may have a die cast housing, and is preferably die cast from tin plated zinc. The MID 800 should be produced so as to shield the various modules within the MID 800 from each other and external radiation. All of the coaxial connectors should be built into the housing.

Although this invention has been illustrated by reference to specific embodiments, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made which clearly fall within the scope of the invention. The invention is intended to be protected broadly within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

## Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5           1. A method of receiving, decoding and distributing video signals from a telecommunications network to a plurality of televisions locatable in at least two separate locations within a residential environment via a residential gateway, the method comprising:
- 10           receiving at least one channel select command from one of a plurality of remote control devices associated with a respective one of the plurality of televisions, wherein at least a first one of the plurality of remote control devices transmits the channel select command directly to a receiver within the residential gateway;
- receiving a video signal from the telecommunications network;
- transporting the video signal over a video bus to a video processor;
- 20           processing the video signal to produce at least one television signal corresponding to the at least one channel select command; and
- transmitting the at least one television signal to the at least one television.
- 25

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving at least one channel select command includes receiving channel select commands from an optical remote control device associated with a television located in close proximity to the residential gateway  
5 at an optical receiver within the residential gateway.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving at least one channel select command includes receiving channel select commands from wireless remote control devices associated with  
10 televisions remotely located from the residential gateway.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said receiving channel select commands from wireless remote control devices includes:

transmitting wireless signals, including the channel select commands, from the wireless remote control devices to remote antennae packages located in close proximity to and coupled to the remotely located televisions;

receiving the wireless signals at the remote antennae packages; and

transmitting the wireless signals from the remote antennae packages to the residential gateway over media.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said transmitting the wireless signals from the remote antennae packages includes

transmitting the wireless signals from the remote antennae packages to a media interface device over the media, the media connecting the remotely located televisions to the media interface device;

5 receiving the wireless signals at the media interface device;

extracting the channel select commands from the wireless signals received at the media interface device; and

transmitting the channel select commands from the media  
10 interface device to a remote control processor within the residential gateway.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the media is coaxial cable and the media interface device is a coaxial interface  
15 device.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the media interface device includes a remote antennae module for receiving the wireless signals and extracting the channel select commands  
20 therefrom.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the wireless remote control devices are UHF remote control devices and the wireless signals are UHF signals.

25

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the UHF signals are transmitted at 433 MHz.

10. The method of claim 5, wherein the channel select commands are extracted as a 1 KHz signal from the wireless signal.

11. The method of claim 7, further comprising extracting other signals which have also been transported over the media, wherein said extracting is performed by a diplexer within the media interface device.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising adjusting the impedance of a subset of the other signals so that the subset of the other signals can be processed by the residential gateway, wherein said adjusting is performed by a balun within the media interface device.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting the at least one television signal includes:

transmitting the at least one television signal to a media interface device;

processing the at least one television signal within the media interface device; and

transmitting the processed television signal from the media interface device to the at least one television.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said processing the at least one television signal includes splitting the at least one television signal so that it can be transmitted to separate locations.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said processing the at least one television signal further includes diplexing other signals onto the media with the at least one television signal.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said processing the at least one television signal further includes changing the impedance of a subset of the other signals so they can be transmitted over the media.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein said processing the at least one television signal further includes combining each of the at least one television signal prior to said splitting at least one television signal, and said splitting the at least one television signal includes splitting the combined television signal.



18. A residential gateway for distributing video signals to a plurality of televisions locatable within at least two separate locations in a residential environment, said residential gateway comprising:

5 a receiver for directly receiving channel select commands from remote control devices associated with the televisions;

a network interface module for receiving signals, including video signals, from a telecommunications network, wherein the received video signals correspond to the channel select commands;

10 a video processor for processing the video signals to produce at least one television signal; and

a video bus for transporting the video signals to said video processor.

15 19. The residential gateway of claim 18, wherein said receiver is an optical receiver which receives channel select commands from an optical remote control device associated with a television located in close proximity to the residential gateway.

20 20. The residential gateway of claim 18, further comprising a remote control module for processing channel select commands received at said receiver and other channel select commands transmitted to the residential gateway over media.

21. The residential gateway of claim 18, further comprising remote antennae packages in close proximity to and coupled to televisions that are remotely located from the residential gateway, the remote antennae packages receiving wireless signals, including channel select commands, from wireless remote control devices associated with the remotely located televisions, and modulating the wireless signals over media to the residential gateway.

22. The residential gateway of claim 21, further comprising a media interface device coupled to said remote control antennae packages with the media, said media interface device receiving the wireless signals and extracting the channel select commands from the wireless signals.

23. The residential gateway of claim 22, wherein the media is coaxial cable and said media interface device is a coaxial interface device.

24. The residential gateway of claim 22, wherein said media interface device includes a remote antennae module for receiving the wireless signal and extracting the channel select commands.

25. The residential gateway of claim 22, wherein the wireless remote control devices are UHF remote control devices and the wireless signals are UHF signals.

5        26. The residential gateway of claim 25, wherein the UHF remote control devices transmit a 433 MHz UHF signal.

10        27. The residential gateway of claim 26, wherein said remote antennae package modulates the 433 MHz UHF signal over the media.

20        28. The residential gateway of claim 24, wherein said remote antennae module extracts the channel select commands as a 1 KHz signal from the wireless signal.

25        29. The residential gateway of claim 22, wherein said media interface device includes a diplexer for extracting other signals from the media or transmitting other signals over the media.

30        30. The residential gateway of claim 29, wherein said media interface device further includes a balun for adjusting the impedance of a subset of the other signals so that the subset of the other signals can be processed by the residential gateway or can be transmitted over the media.

31. The residential gateway of claim 22, wherein said media interface device is directly connected to the residential gateway.

5 32. The residential gateway of claim 19, further comprising a media interface device for processing the at least one television signal and transmitting the processed television signal to the at least one television.

10 33. The residential gateway of claim 32, wherein said media interface device includes a splitter for splitting the at least one television signal so that it can be transmitted to separate locations.

15 34. The residential gateway of claim 32, wherein said media interface device further includes a combiner for combining each of the at least one television signal, to form a combined television signal.

20 35. A method for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network at a residential gateway, and transmitting decoded signals from the residential gateway to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the method comprising:

connecting each of the plurality of devices and the telecommunications network to the residential gateway so that all communications between the devices and the telecommunications network must pass through the residential gateway;

5        selecting a television channel to view for at least one of the multiple televisions by programming an associated remote control device to transmit a channel select command, wherein the channel select commands are received by a receiver within the residential gateway;

10        transmitting the at least one channel select command to the telecommunications network;

         receiving a video signal from the telecommunications network;

15        processing the video signal into at least one television signal corresponding to the at least one channel select command, the processing performed by a video processor; and

         transmitting the at least one television signal to the appropriate television.

20        36. The method of claim 35, wherein said connecting each of the plurality of devices and the telecommunications network to the residential gateway includes connecting a television located in close proximity to the residential gateway to the residential gateway with S-video cables.

25

37. The method of claim 35, wherein said connecting each of the plurality of devices and the telecommunications network to the residential gateway includes connecting televisions remotely located from the residential gateway to the residential gateway via remote antennae packages located in close proximity to and connected to the remotely located televisions, media, and a media interface device connected to the residential gateway and to each of the remote antennae packages with the media.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the media interface device is directly connected to the residential gateway.

39. The method of claim 35, wherein said selecting a television channel includes selecting a television channel for a television located in close proximity to the residential gateway by programming an associated optical remote control device which transmits an optical signal, including a channel select command, to the receiver within the residential gateway.

40. The method of claim 35, wherein said selecting a television channel includes selecting a television channel for televisions remotely located from the residential gateway by programming associated wireless remote control devices which transmit wireless signals, including channel select commands.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein said programming associated wireless remote control devices includes:

transmitting the wireless signals from the associated wireless remote control devices to remote antennae packages

5 located in close proximity to the remotely located televisions;

receiving the wireless signals at the remote antennae packages; and

transmitting the wireless signals from the remote antennae packages to the residential gateway over media.

10

42. The method of claim 41, wherein said transmitting the wireless signals from the remote antennae packages includes

transmitting the wireless signals from the remote antennae packages to a media interface device over the media, the media  
5 connecting the remotely located televisions to the media interface device;

receiving the wireless signals at the media interface device;

extracting the channel select commands from the wireless  
20 signals received at the media interface device; and

transmitting the channel select commands from the media interface device to a remote control processor within the residential gateway.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the media interface device includes a remote antennae module for receiving the wireless signals and extracting the channel select commands therefrom.

5

44. The method of claim 35, wherein said transmitting the television signals includes transmitting the television signals to a television in close proximity to the residential gateway as S-video signals.

10

45. A method for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network at a residential gateway, and transmitting the decoded signals from the residential gateway to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the method comprising:

connecting the residential gateway to the telecommunications network and to at least one television that is remotely located from the residential gateway;

selecting a television channel to view for the at least one television by programming associated wireless remote control devices, wherein the wireless remote control devices transmit channel select commands as wireless signals to remote antennae packages connected to the at least one television, the remote antennae packages receive the wireless signals and transmit the wireless signals over media to a media interface device which

15

20

25



demodulates the wireless signals and extracts the portion  
corresponding to the channel select commands;

transmitting the channel select commands to the  
telecommunications network;

5 receiving a video signal from the telecommunications  
network;

processing the video signal to produce television signals  
corresponding to the channel select commands, wherein the  
processing is performed by a video processor; and

10 transmitting the television signals to the at least one  
television.

46. A residential gateway for receiving and decoding  
signals from a telecommunications network and transmitting the  
15 decoded signals to a plurality of devices including multiple  
televisions, the residential gateway comprising:

a network interface module for transmitting upstream  
signals, including channel select commands, to the  
telecommunications network and receiving downstream signals,  
20 including video signals, from the telecommunications network;

a video processor for processing the video signals into at  
least one television signal corresponding to at least one channel  
select command, and transmitting the at least one television  
signal to the corresponding television;

a remote control module for processing the channel select commands, wherein at least one of the channel select commands is extracted from a wireless signal, the wireless signal being transmitted from a wireless remote control device to a remote antennae package connected to the associated television, the remote antennae package transmitting the wireless signal over media to a media interface device which demodulates the wireless signal and extracts the portion corresponding to the channel select command.

10

47. A residential gateway for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network and transmitting the decoded signals to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the residential gateway comprising:

a network interface module for transmitting upstream signals, including channel select commands, to the telecommunications network and receiving downstream signals, including video signals, from the telecommunications network;

a video processor for decoding the video signals into at least one television signal corresponding to at least one channel select command, and transmitting the at least one television signal to the corresponding television;

a remote antennae package located in close proximity to and connected to a remotely located television, said remote antennae package receiving a wireless signal, including a channel select

command, from a wireless remote control device associated with the remotely located television and modulating the wireless signal over media; and

a media interface device connected to the media and the  
5 residential gateway for demodulating the wireless signal, extracting the portion corresponding to the channel select command, and transmitting the channel select command to the residential gateway.

10 48. The residential gateway of claim 47, wherein said media interface device includes:

a remote antennae module for extracting the channel select commands from the wireless signal;

15 a splitter for splitting the at least one TV signal, so that the at least one TV signal can be provided to multiple locations;

20 a balun for adjusting the impedance of network signals to and from the telecommunications network so that they can be transmitted over the media; and

a diplexer for extracting from the media network signals  
20 from the telecommunications network and inserting onto the media network signals from the residential gateway.

49. The residential gateway of claim 48, wherein said media interface device further includes a combiner for combining the at

least one TV signal into a combined TV signal and said splitter splits the combined TV signal.

50. A media interface device for directional distribution  
5 of signals to multiple devices over a media, the media interface comprising:

a first connector for receiving a first signal in a first direction;

a second connector for receiving a second signal in the  
10 first direction and transmitting a third signal in a second direction;

a third connector for transmitting the first signal and the second signal over the media in the first direction and receiving the third signal and a fourth signal over the media in the second  
15 direction;

a diplexer for extracting the third signal from the media in the second direction and inserting the second signal onto the media in the first direction;

a remote antennae module for receiving the fourth signal and  
20 extracting a fifth signal therefrom; and

a fourth connector for transmitting the fifth signal in the second direction.

51. The media interface device of claim 50, further  
25 comprising a balun for adjusting the impedance of the second



with a respective Y connector, and said X by Y splitter combines the Y signals to form a combined signal and splits the combined signal into X identical combined signals, said third connector transmits the combined signal and the second signal over the media in the first direction, and said additional connectors transmit the combined signal in the first direction.

55. The media interface device of claim 50, wherein the media interface device connects directly to a residential gateway and distributes signals between the residential gateway, a telecommunications network, and multiple devices communicating with the telecommunications network via the residential gateway.

56. The media interface device of claim 55, wherein the first signal is a TV signal, the second signal is an upstream network signal, the third signal is a downstream network signal, the fourth signal is a wireless signal, the fifth signal is a channel select command, the first direction is away from the residential gateway, and the second direction is toward the residential gateway.

57. A media interface device for connecting to a residential gateway and distributing signals to and from the residential gateway over a media, the media interface comprising:







## Abstract Of The Disclosure

A Residential Gateway (RG) for distributing video, data and telephone services to multiple devices within a residence is disclosed. The RG receives signals from a telecommunications  
5 network, converts the signals to formats compatible with the multiple devices, and transmits the appropriate signals to the appropriate devices. Wireless remote control devices (RCs) associated with remotely located televisions (TVs) transmit channel select commands to the RG as wireless signals. The  
10 wireless signals are received by Remote Antennae Packages (RAPs) coupled to the remotely located TVs. The RAPs transmit the wireless signals over coaxial cable to a Media Interface Device (MID) coupled to the RG. The MID extracts the channel select commands and forwards them to the RG. The MID is also capable of  
15 combining and splitting TV signals, and adjusting the impedance of network signals so that they can be transmitted over the coaxial cable.

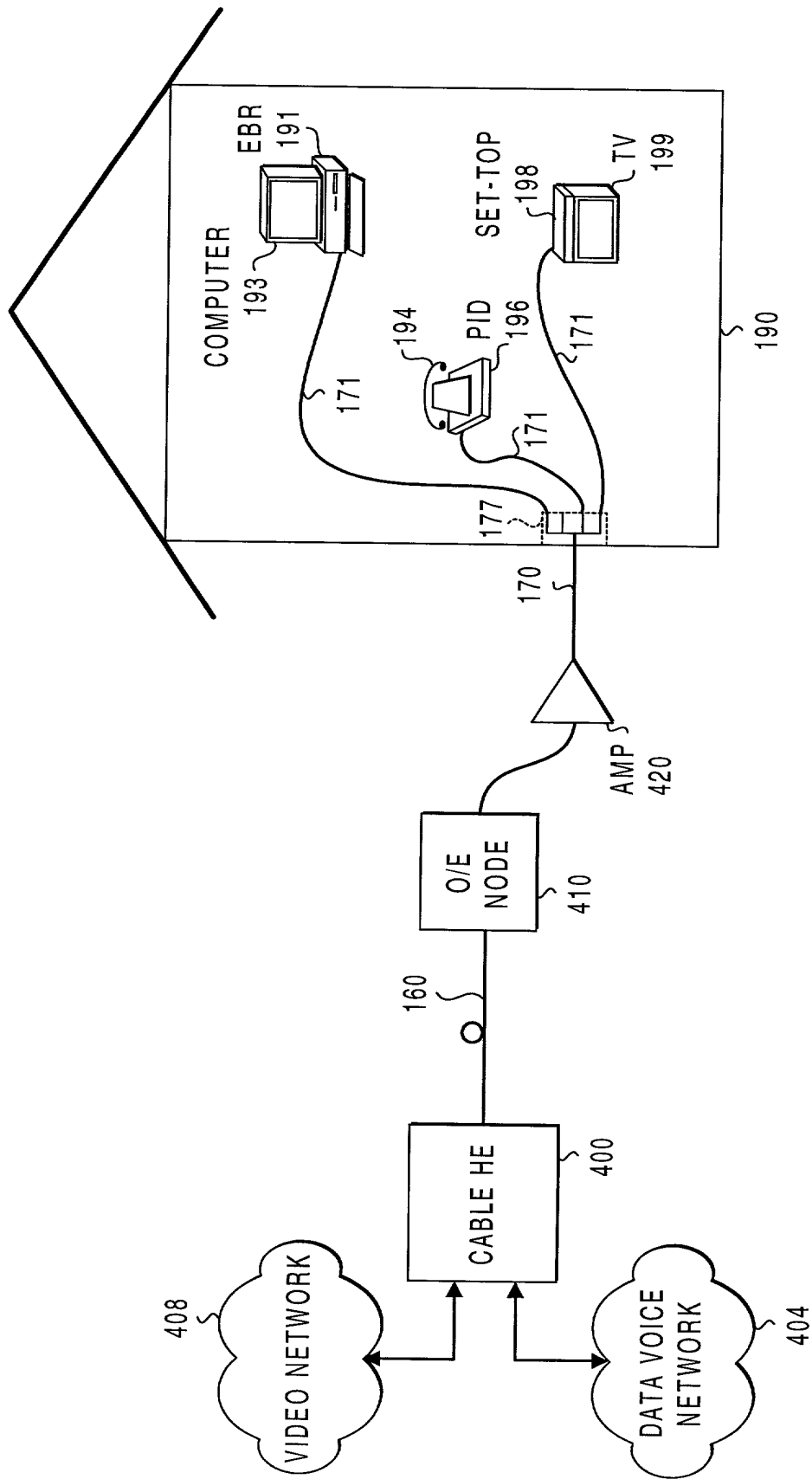
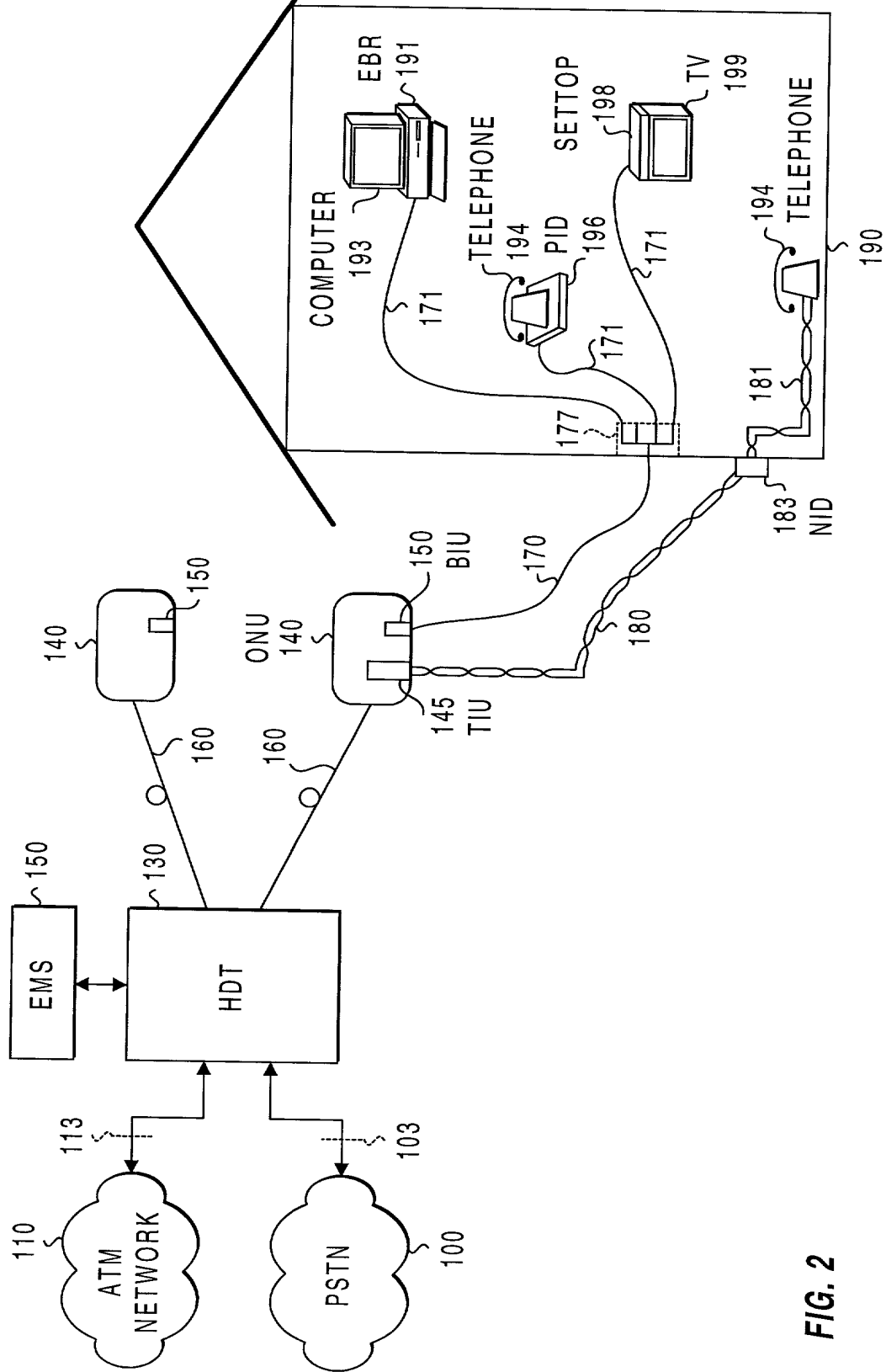
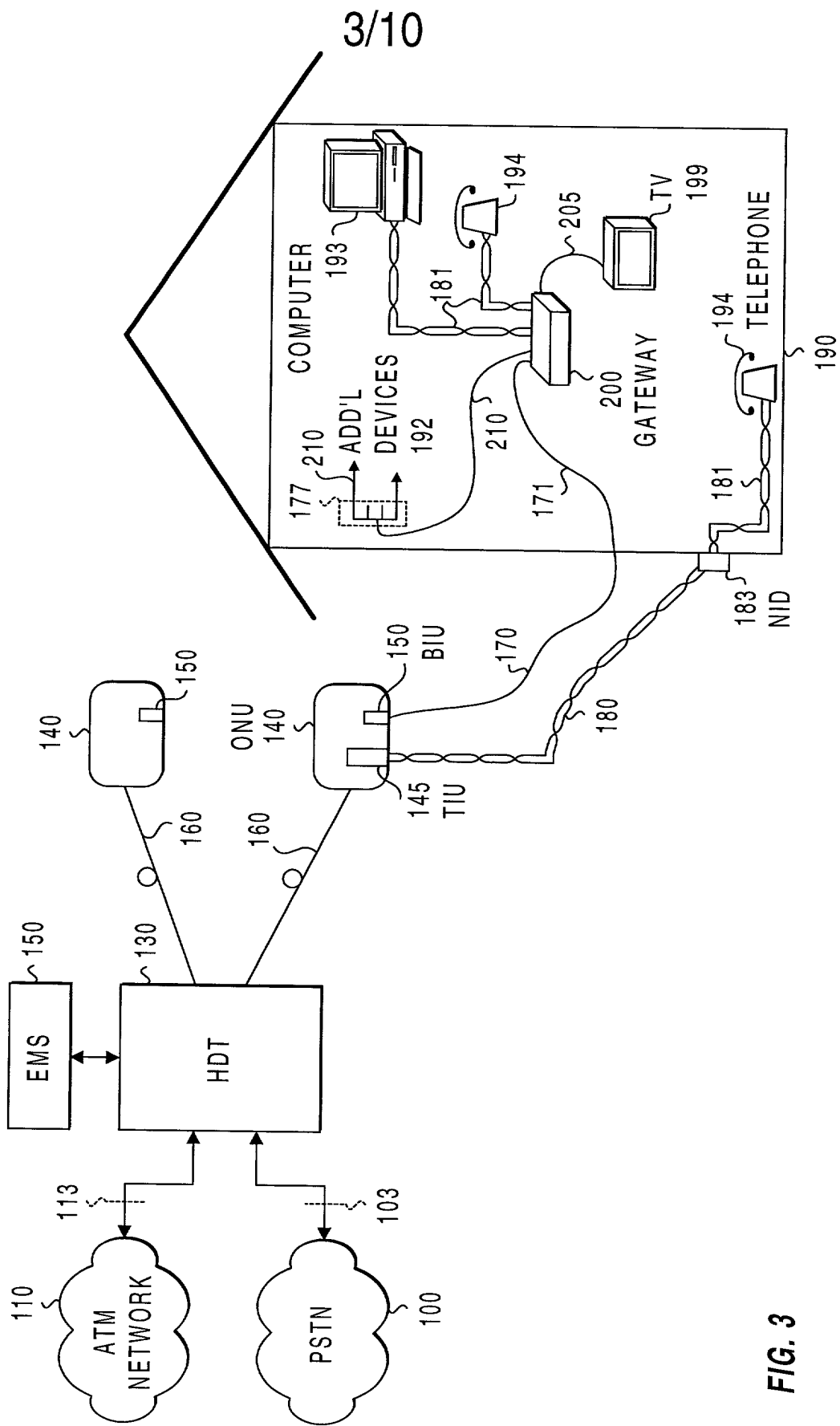


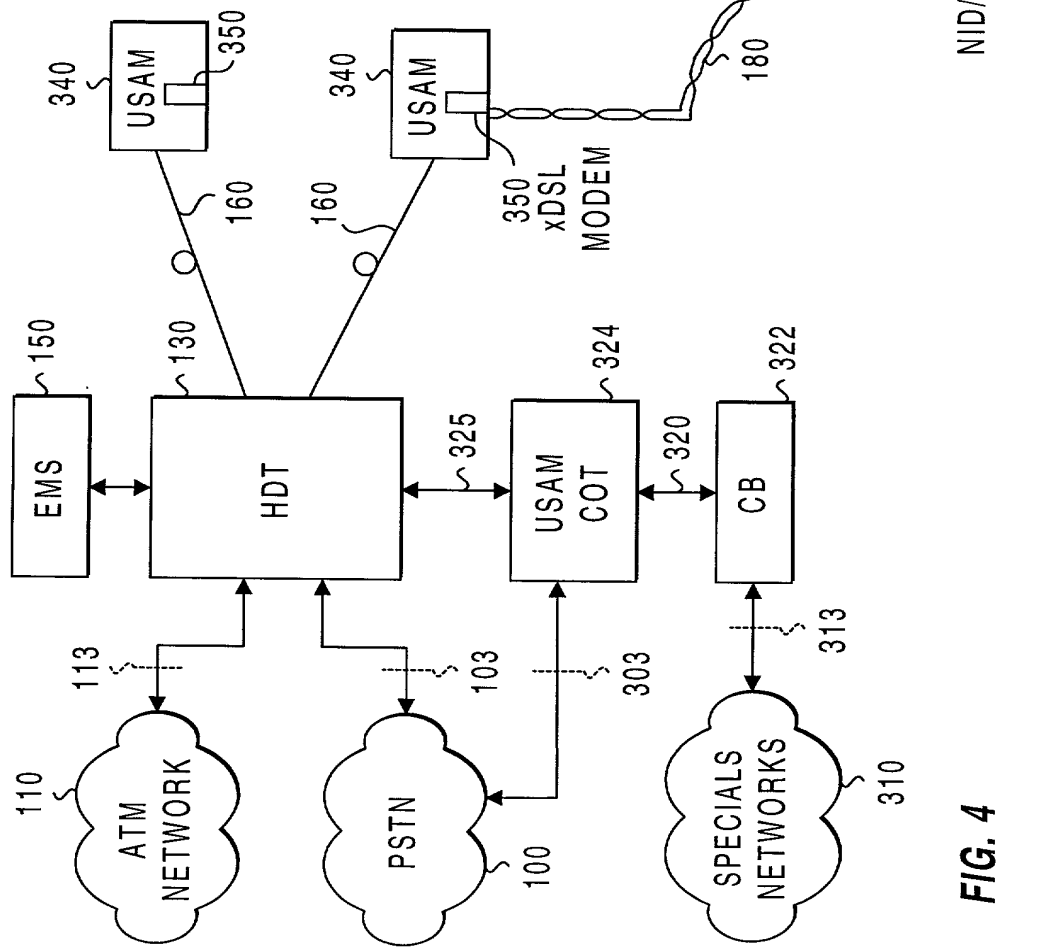
FIG. 1



**FIG. 2**



**FIG. 3**



**FIG. 4**

5/10

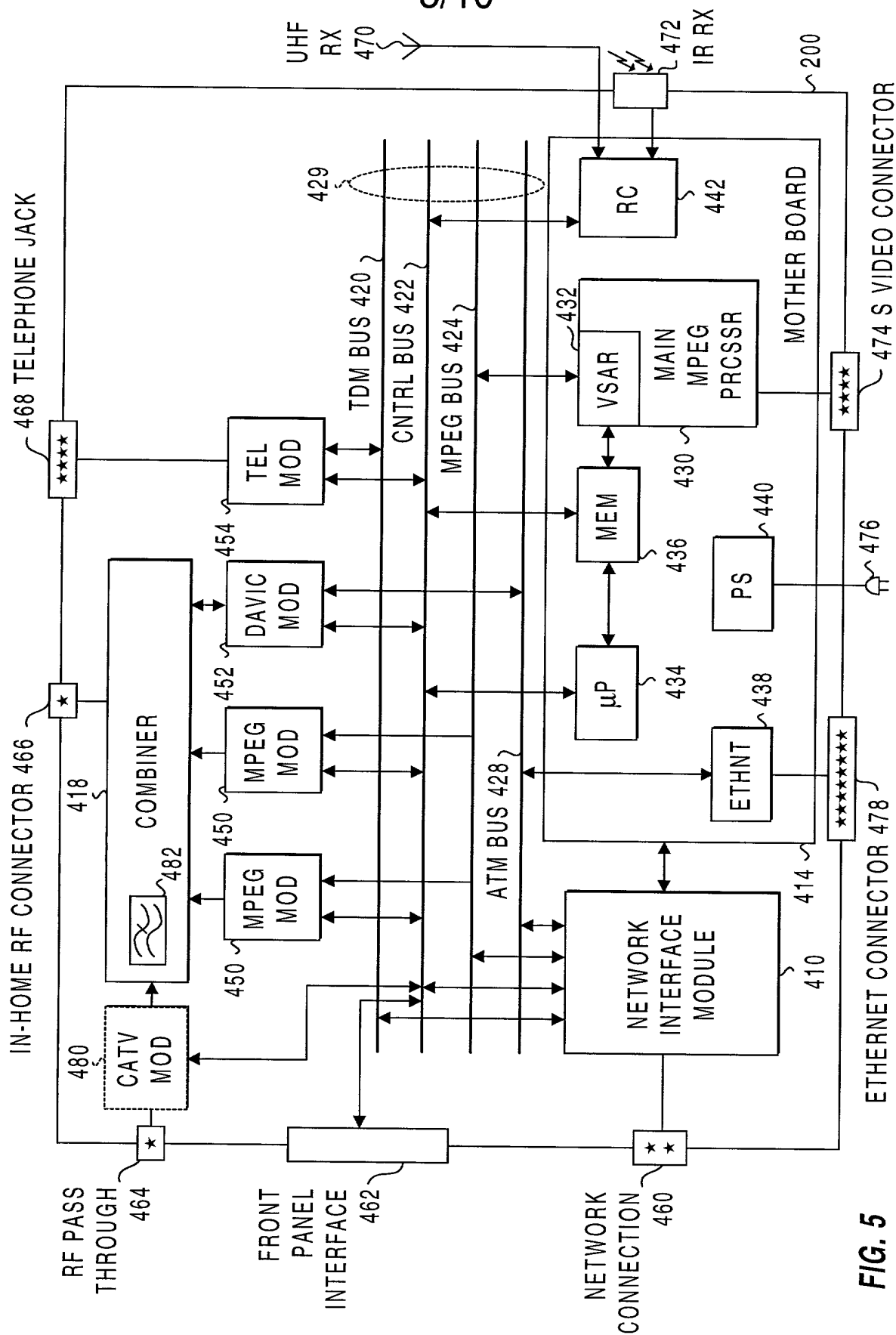


FIG. 5

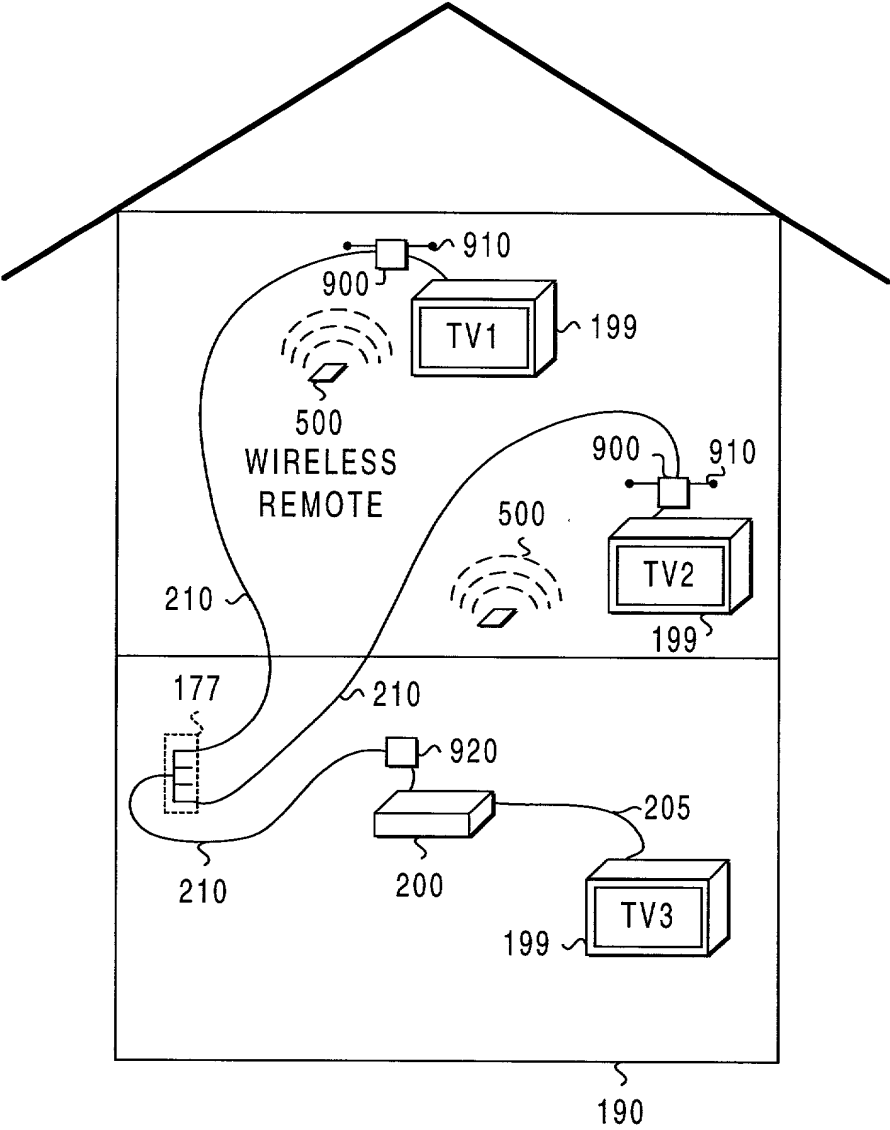


FIG. 6

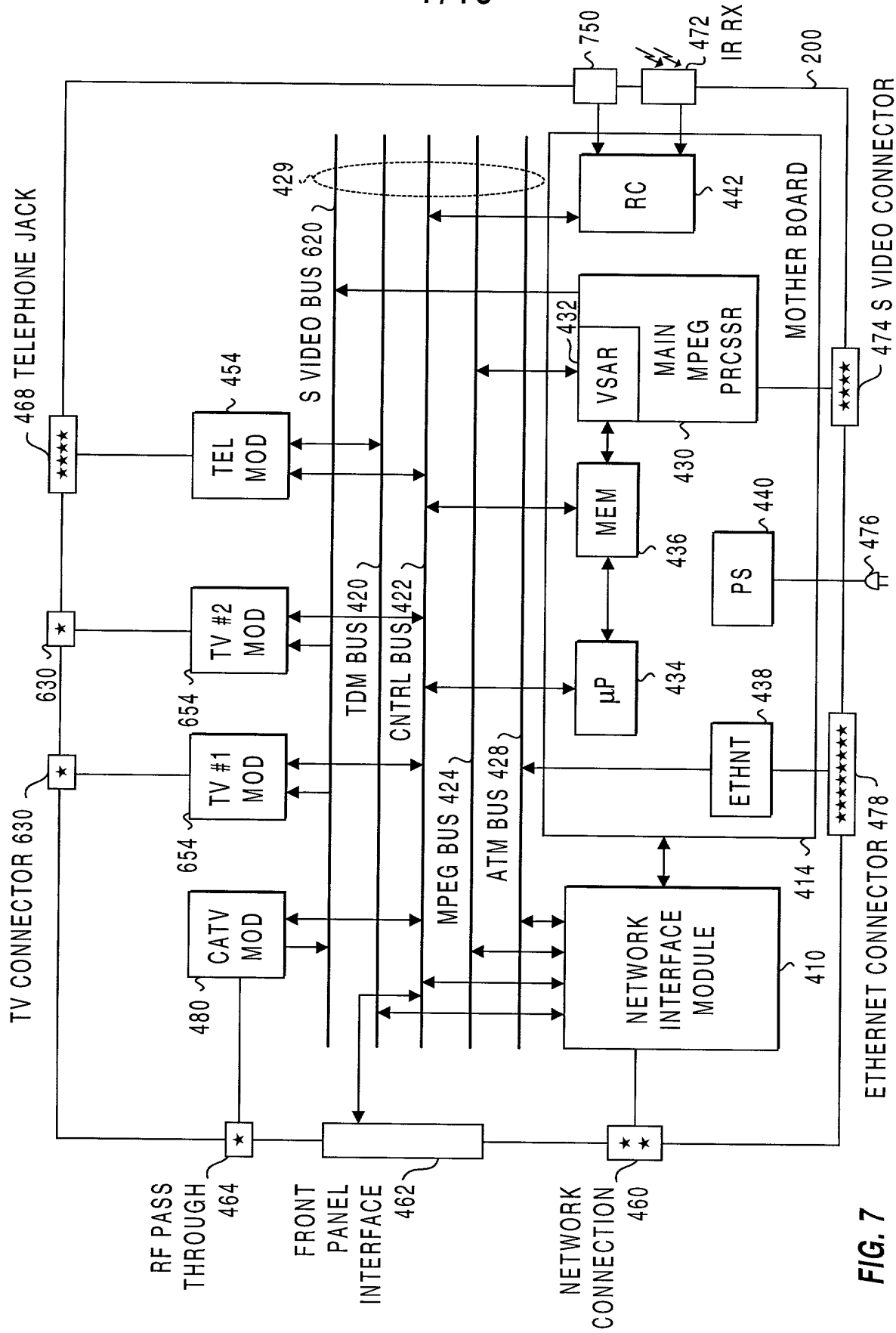


FIG. 7



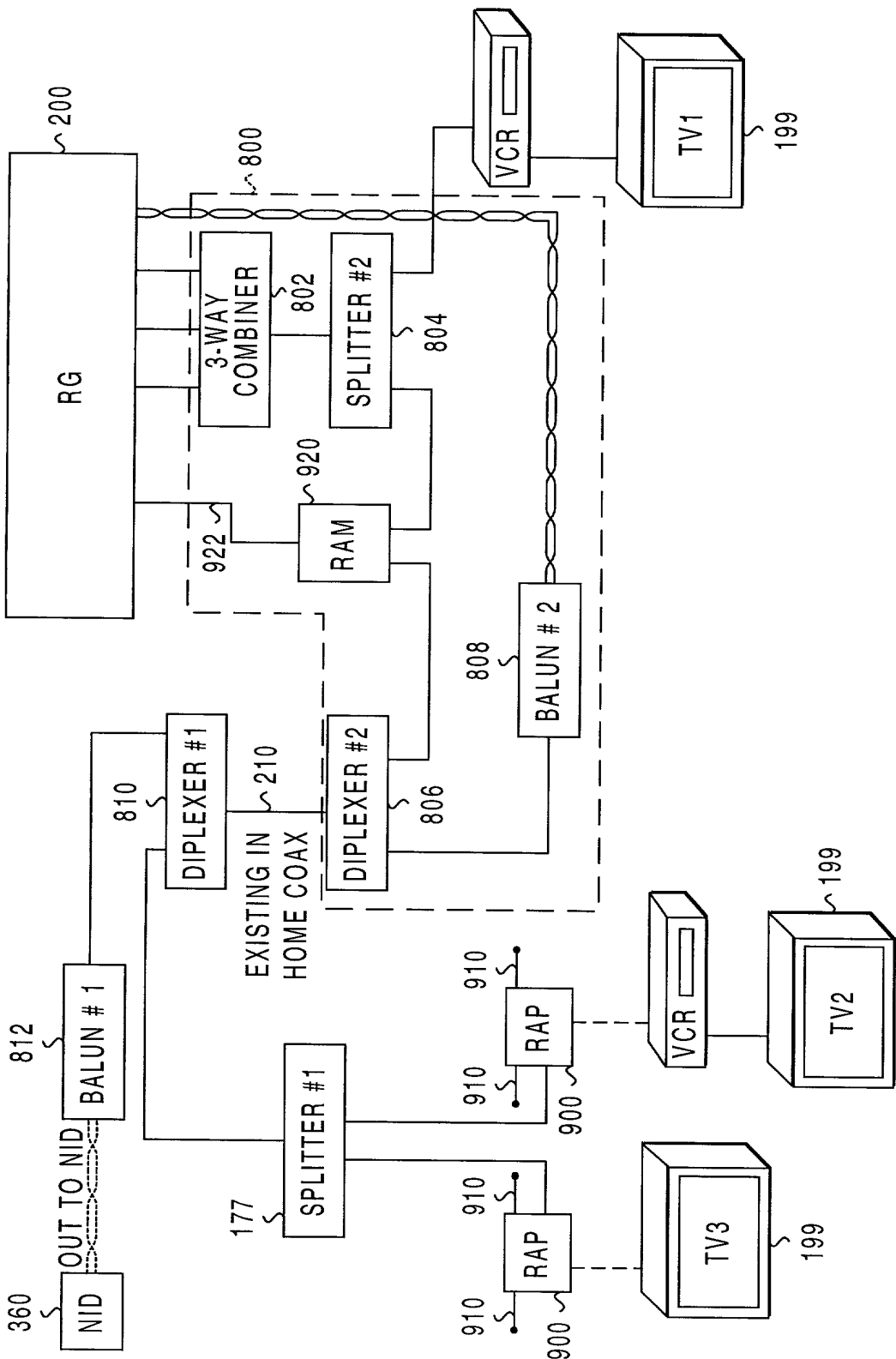


FIG. 8

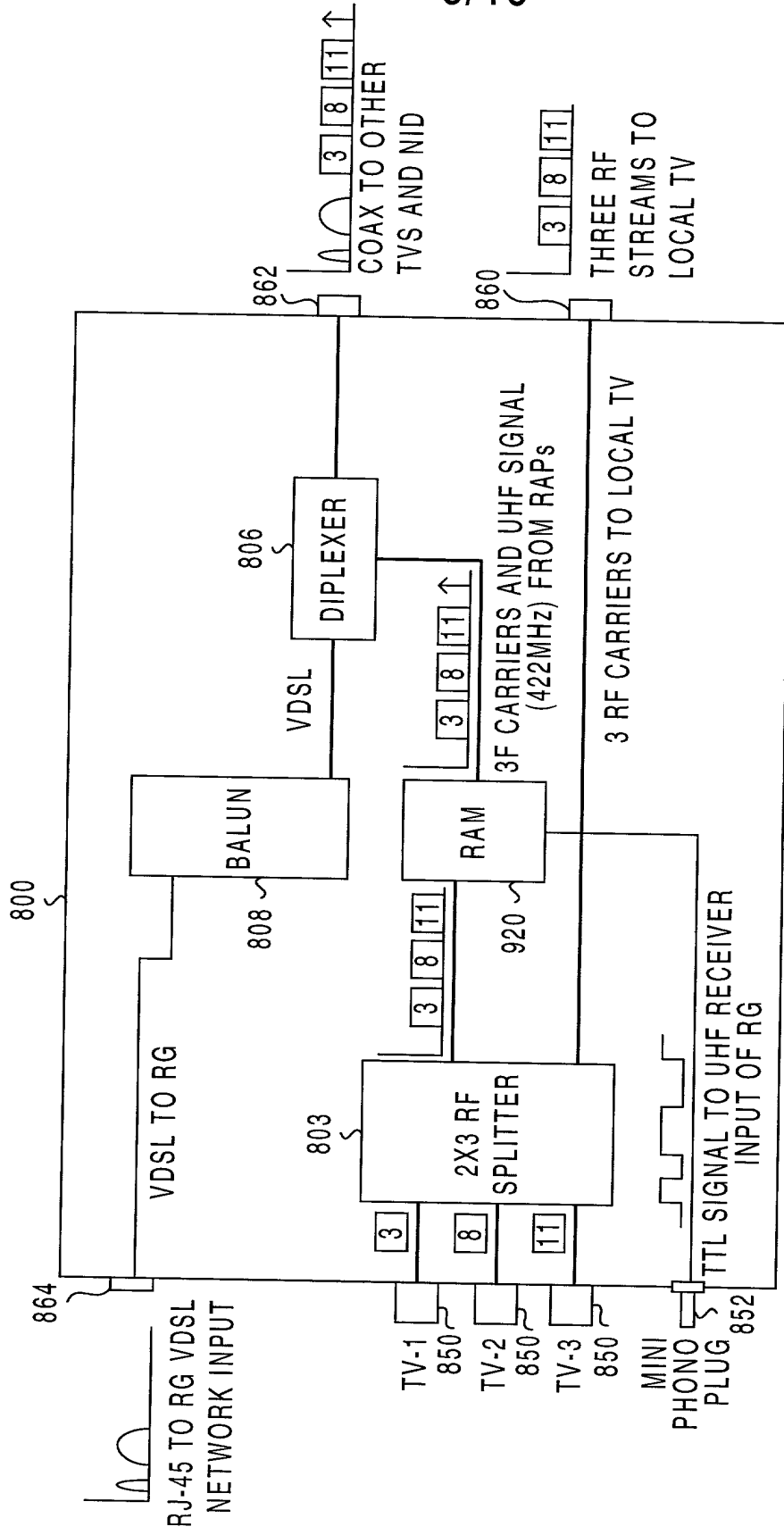
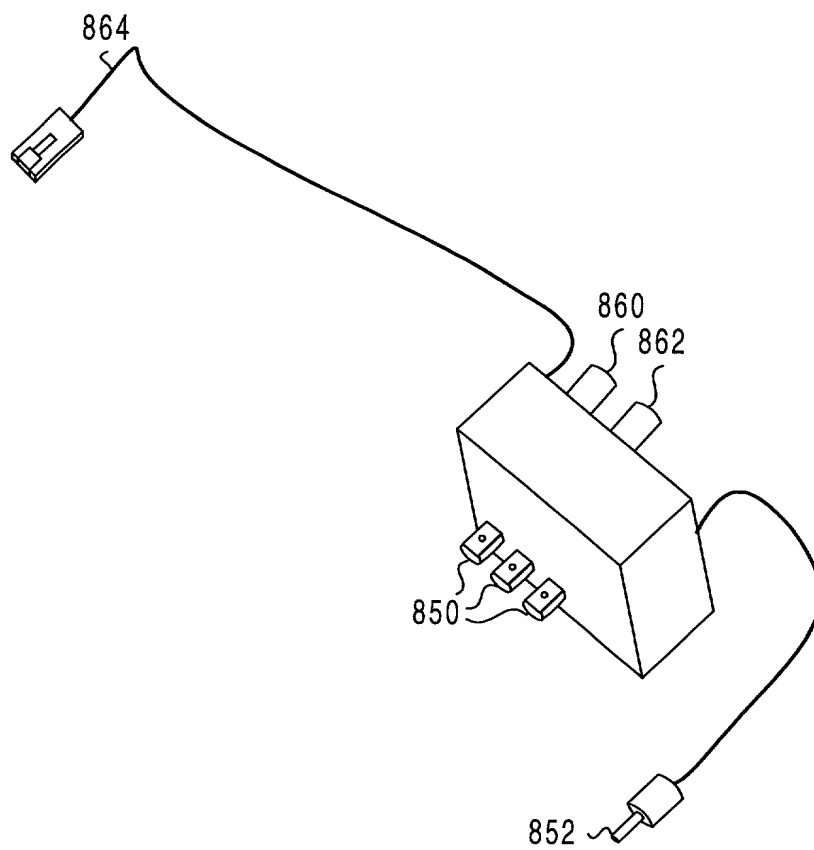


FIG. 9



**FIG. 10**

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN NUMBER UNKNOWN	FILING DATE UNKNOWN	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR SHEPPARD	ATTY. DKT. NO. 6019.3027
TITLE MEDIA INTERFACE DEVICE		ART UNIT UNKNOWN	EXAMINER UNKNOWN

## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

☒ Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing, or ☐ Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

MEDIA INTERFACE DEVICE

the specification of which

- ☒ is attached hereto, or  
☐ was filed on (DD/MM/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number and was amended on (DD/MM/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 (a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Copy Attached?	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

☐ Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

00540 " 2742560

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Application Number	Parent Filing Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Name	Registration Number
John P. Blasko	31,149
Douglas J. Ryder	43,073

☐ Additional attorney(s) and/or agent(s) are listed on a supplemental sheet attached hereto.

Send correspondence to: John P. Blasko  
J.P. Blasko Prof. Corp.  
107 North Broad Street  
Doylestown, PA 18901

Direct telephone calls to: John P. Blasko (215) 348-7775

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole or First Inventor: STEVE SHEPPARD

Signature: *Steve Sheppard*  
Residence: Sebastopol, California  
Post Office Address: 7170 Lynch Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472  
Citizenship: United States of America

Date: 3/14/00

Full Name of Additional Joint Inventor: BILL WEEKS

Signature: *William A. Weeks*  
Residence: Petaluma, California  
Post Office Address: 392 Windmill Lane, Petaluma, CA 94954  
Citizenship: United States of America

Date: 3/13/00

☐ Additional inventors are being named on supplemental sheet(s) attached hereto.